

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Two Former State-employed Night Janitors Plead Guilty to Fraud Scheme**

Springfield, IL – Two former employees of the Illinois Secretary of State's Office pled guilty today to participating in a scheme that allowed them to receive their full pay as night janitors while working only a fraction of their full-time hours. Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that David Medvesek, 57, of Springfield, and Steven Boyce, 58, of Chatham, Illinois, each pled guilty to four counts of wire fraud during separate hearings before U.S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade in Peoria. Sentencing for both defendants, who remain on bond, is scheduled for December 21, 2006; Medvesek at 9:30 a.m. and Boyce at 10:00 a.m. The offense of wire fraud carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison.

U.S. Attorney Heaton said, "Taxpayers have a right to expect an honest day's work for a day's pay from government employees. These guilty please confirm that, with respect to Mr. Boyce and Mr. Medvesek, on many, many days, it didn't happen. Their abuse of the public's trust has now made them convicted felons."

The investigation was conducted by the Inspector General for the Illinois Secretary of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gregory M. Gilmore and Patrick J. Chesley.

Medvesek and Boyce were employed full-time by the Illinois Secretary of State's Physical Services Division to provide janitorial services at state office buildings in Springfield, Illinois, including the Herndon Building and the Court of Claims Building. Both held official duty hours of 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Medvesek began working in his position in July 1984; Boyce began his employment in April 1984. Both left state employment in November 2005.

During hearings today, Medvesek and Boyce each admitted that beginning in 1999 and continuing until August 2005, they developed and participated in a scheme to arrive late for work or to leave work without taking approved leave. As a result of the scheme, Medvesek and Boyce received their full salaries despite working only a fraction of their official duty hours.

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Medvesek and Boyce admitted they attempted to conceal the fact that they were not at work when they were supposed to be, developing various methods to cover themselves and each other's unauthorized absences from work. This included leaving notes in the janitors' area of one building purporting they were at another site.

As the scheme progressed, the number of official duty hours the night janitors were supposed to work remained the same, but the number of hours they actually worked decreased. By 2004 and continuing until August 2005, Medvesek and Boyce admitted that they each worked only about half the hours they were supposed to work. As a result of the scheme, the state of Illinois paid the janitors between \$120,000 and \$200,000 to which they were not entitled.

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